

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

Group I: Claims 1, 2 and 6-9, drawn to an alkylacetal compound having the structure represented by general formula (1) and process for preparing said alkylacetal compound.

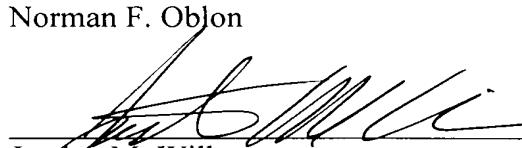
Group II: Claims 3-5, 10, 11, 18 and 19, drawn to an alkylacetal compound having the structure represented by general formula (2) and processes for preparing said alkylacetal compound.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, Claims 3-5, 10, 11, 18 and 19 (drawn to an alkylacetal compound having the structure represented by formula (2) and processes for preparing said alkylacetal compound), for examination.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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